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Senate

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Father Daniel L. Ochs, St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg, OH.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Father Daniel L. Ochs, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, we call to mind Your presence and ask that we may be mindful of Your will for us. In Your bountiful goodness, You have made us a great nation subject to You.

May we serve You in humble gratitude and be faithful in our responsibility to work for the fulfillment of Your kingdom on Earth, a kingdom of justice, peace, and love. Stirred up by Your Holy Spirit, may we replace hate with love, mistrust with understanding, and indifference with interdependence. Bless our Senators so that with open minds and hearts they may become peacemakers in our world. May the Earth be filled with Your glory. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). The Senator from Florida is recognized.

FATHER DAN OCHS

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I extend a warm welcome to Father Dan this morning. He is our guest Chaplain this

morning from Reynoldsburg, OH. I had the pleasure of meeting him a few moments ago, but in a sense I have known him for at least a number of years because my brother, Andrew McGillicuddy, is a member of his parish—Andy and Chris—and as a result of their request, Father Dan was able to join us this morning. He is the pastor of a church of 2,400 families, a great responsibility. We are delighted he is with us this morning.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of the pending Harkin amendment to the partial-birth abortion ban bill. By previous consent, there are 2 hours of debate on the amendment. Therefore, Senators can anticipate a vote at approximately 11:30 a.m., unless the time is yielded back on the amendment. Senators should be aware future roll-call votes are expected in an attempt to complete action on the bill prior to adjournment today.

Following the completion of the partial-birth abortion ban bill, the Senate may begin consideration of any legislative items on the calendar or any conference reports available for action.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1692, which the clerk will report by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1692) to amend title 18, United States Code, to ban partial-birth abortions.

Pending:

Boxer amendment No. 2320 (to the text of the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2319), to express the Sense of the Congress that, consistent with the rulings of the Supreme Court, a woman's life and health must always be protected in any reproductive health legislation passed by Congress.

Harkin amendment No. 2321 (to amendment No. 2320), to express the Sense of Congress in support of the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 hours of debate equally divided prior to the vote on amendment No. 2321.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Chair.

I also want to say something about the prayer which I found to be quite beautiful. I think talking about making sure we have no hate in our heart is really important. It is so important to all of us as we debate this legislation, to understand that we have great differences but to try to reach for that part of ourselves that brings us all together.

I thank the guest Chaplain as well.

This morning I am very pleased to be here. I know that while Democratic Senators were attending a dinner last evening, the debate into the late hours was rather one-sided. So I really do appreciate the fact we have a little time this morning to set the record straight.

I am very pleased the Senator from Iowa, who is on his way here, was able to place his amendment before the Senate so we could bring back this debate on a woman's right to choose, the fundamental right women won in this country in 1973 when the Court decided that, in fact, a woman in the earlier stages of her pregnancy has a right to choose freely, with her doctor and her husband and her family, as to how to handle their situation. I think it was a very important, landmark decision.

The decision went on to say that in the later term, which we are talking about a great deal, the State has the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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